

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
Dog Park FAQ Sheet

1. The turf is in poor condition or the dog park is dirt/mud, why isn't it repaired?

Due to intense use, it is extremely difficult to keep a good stand of grass growing in dog parks especially ones that are very small such as Wheeler. In addition, grass does not grow year round in Ohio, and thus the window of opportunity to keep grass in place is limited to only seven or eight months of the year. This becomes even more challenging in those late fall and winter months when there is snowfall and rain, which softens the turf and leaves it vulnerable to damage; i.e. it quickly becomes a mud pit. Thus, our only option is to fence off areas to nurture the ground for regrowth so that portions of the park will be available for the majority of every year.

2. Why is all of Wheeler Dog Park closed?

The small size of Wheeler Park coupled with the high use makes maintaining the grass a challenge. That is why last summer we opened half of the park on a 30-day rotating basis in an attempt to keep the grass growing in the areas designated for off-leash dogs. However, when the grass stopped growing this past fall and the park was still being used, it didn't take long for the grass to quickly erode and the ground to become barren and muddy. We know that park visitors want to use the half of the park that currently has grass, but the reality is that grass does not grow in the winter in Ohio. So, if we let people utilize the grass area now, it too will quickly lose its turf and the entire park will be a mud pit and will stay that way until at least June. Thus, in order to have a portion of the park ready for spring, our only option is to close the entire park for the next couple of months.

3. Why have all the watering bowls and containers been removed?

To reduce the risk of passing diseases from one dog to another, all containers left at our dog parks are subject to being removed for the safety and well-being of all dogs. While pet owners are welcome to bring their own bowls for their dogs to use, owners must take all containers with them when leaving the park or the bowls will be removed by park personnel.

4. Why are there holes in the dog parks turf?

Dogs, by nature, dig holes and since we do not have staff posted within our parks, we are unable to fill those holes on any consistent basis.

5. A vicious dog was at the dog park, what should we do?

The best suggestion is to contact the Franklin County Dog Warden/Animal Control at 614-525-3400.

6. [My dog is very small and can go under fences or gates.](#)

We do our best to repair fencing and gate damage, but it is likely there may always be holes near the fences due to dogs or other animals digging in the ground. The weather can also cause damage to the turf making it easier for dogs to go under fences and/or gates. If you encounter any areas that need our attention, please do not hesitate to call 311 or you may contact us directly at 614-645-3350.

7. [The Big Walnut Dog Park doesn't have water available for the dogs, why not?](#)

The distance to run a waterline is too costly and there is no funding available at this time. Thus, we suggest that you bring your own water in a container, which you must take with you when you leave the park or it will be removed by park personnel.